a provision exists, since this year, giving a pass to the accompanying person to travel with a disabled person has been cancelled. I would like to know. What is the reason for it? Also, is the Minister aware that in a number of places, stalls have been given to disabled people? But, at the end of the year, a commission of ten per cent is charged from the disabled people. Whether any action is expected from the Government on this.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Sir, as far as the first part of the question is concerned that there was a facility for one person to accompany a disabled person in Railways, the hon. Member has informed that this has been withdrawn. I will definitely take up the matter with the hon. Railway Minister and find out reasons behind such an action, if any such an action has been taken. I would try to address this issue.

As far as the issue regarding stalls is concerned, I would like to have more details on this particular matter. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I was going to raise an issue of six crore people who can't speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am just saying that they can't speak and also they can't hear. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I am not asking for an answer. It is just a small intervention. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that 60 years after Independence there are six crore people who are deaf and dumb and who do not have a life. They are handicapped. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, Is there a question or not? ...*(Interruptions)*... Question Hour is over. ...*(Interruptions)*...

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Criteria for extension of central schemes to States

*406. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing criteria prescribed for extending Central schemes to States act as a hurdle for development of advanced States;

(b) whether Government had taken into consideration the objective realities persisting in different States while articulating the guidelines under the different schemes; and

(c) if not, whether Government would change the existing criteria?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Allocations for Plan Schemes are made by the Planning Commission to Union Ministries. These allocations include both central schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The allocation of funds under these schemes to individual States is finalized by the administrative Ministry. The financing pattern varies from scheme to scheme depending upon the objectives sought to be achieved and the situation on the ground.

The criteria for Eleventh Plan, inter-alia, includes improved access to essential services in health, education (including skill development) and infrastructure especially for the poor, which is essential to ensure inclusiveness and also to support rapid growth. The effort of the planning process aims at enabling backward regions to substantially overcome the disadvantages they labour under and to provide at least a certain minimum standard of services for the citizens. Reducing regional imbalances and promoting inclusive growth has indeed been a vital objective of the planning process.

*407. [Withdrawan]

National mission on monuments and antiquities

*408. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) by when the documentation of India's vast trove of ancient idols and sculptures under the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities would be completed;

(b) whether "Carbon Dating of idols" is done in all cases issuing "Non-antiquity" certificates; and

(c) whether "sight and experience" are the main determinants in majority of such cases or some basic norms about issuing "Non-antiquity" certificate have been prescribed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) was launched in March 2007. Its mandate includes preparation of a National Register for Built Heritage, Sites and Antiquities and setting up of State level database on Built Heritage, Sites and Antiquarian Wealth for information and dissemination to planners, researchers, etc. and for better management of such cultural resources.

The time-frame prescribed for the NMMA to accomplish its mandate is five years.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Besides, sight and experience other determinants such as art styles, inscriptions, decorative motifs, material used etc. are taken in consideration while issuing "Non-antiquity" certificates.

Emancipation programmes

†*409. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry only implements the emancipation programmes for the people under its aegis or it also looks after the complaints regarding harassment of these people;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.